

ARTICLES

OF

ENQUIRY

CONCERNING

Matters Ecclesiastical

Within the DIOCESE of

CHESTER,

Primary Episcopal Visitation

Right Reverend Father in God

JOHN

Lord Bishop of CHESTER,

Anno Dom. 1674.

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ARTICLES
OF
RELIGION
The Tenour of the Oath to be Tendered to the Church-Wardens and Side-men.

YOU shall Swear, diligently to enquire, and true Presentment make, of all Defaults and Offences against the Laws Ecclesiastical of this Realm. In which you are to take Direction from these Articles. And that you will not Present any Person out of Malice or Ill-will, nor spare any out of Fear or Favour. So help you God.



ARTICLES
OF
ENQUIRY
Within the DIOCESE of
CHESTER.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches or Chappels, with the
Ornaments, Furniture and Possessions be-
longing to them.

I. **I**S the Fabric of your Church (or Chappel) with all
things appertaining to it, kept in good repair, decent
and sufficient, in such order and decency, as becometh
the House of God?

II. **I**S there in the Church (or Chappel) a Font of Stone
standing in the usual ancient place, with a Cover to it, for the
Administration of Baptism? Is there also a convenient Com-
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munion Table, with a fair Carpet of Silk, or other decent stuff, in the time of Divine Service; and with a fair Linnen Cloth at the time of Administering the Sacrament: What Cup, Chalice, Paten or Flagons, have you belonging to that Service?

III. HAVE you in your Church (or Chappel) a convenient seat for the Minister to read Divine Service in? And a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion for the same?

IV. HAVE you a large Folio Bible of the last Translation, with two Books of Common Prayer well bound, one for the Minister, the other for the Clerk? Have you the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority, the Book of Canons, and the Table of Persons prohibited in Marriages?

V. HAVE you a Register-Book of Parchment for all who are Christened, Married or Buried in the Parish? With your Minister every Lords-day in the Presence of your Church-Wardens set down the Names of Parties, with the Day, Month, and Year of each Christning, Marriage, or Burial? In the Transcripts thereof every Year, within one Month after the Twentieth fifth of March, carried into the Bishops Registry?

VI. HAVE you a Paper-Book in which the Names of Strangers who preach or officiate in the Church (or Chappel) are set down; and another Book for the Church-Wardens Accounts?

VII. HAVE you a fair Surplice for the Minister to wear at the times of his publick Ministration provided at the Charge of the Parish?

VIII. HAVE you a Chest with three Locks and Keys to keep the Books and Ornaments of the Church? Have you a Bier with a black Vorse-cloth for the Burial of the Dead?

IX. IS the Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Pales, or Hedges, and decently kept from all Annoyance or Inconveniencies? Are the Trees therein preserved?

X. IS the Mansion House of your Minister, with all other Houses thereto belonging, kept in good repair? Have any of them been pulled down, or defaced? Have any Incroached upon the Land thereto belonging, or killed the Trees thereon growing?

XI. HAVE

XI. HAVE your parish Tithes of all Glebe Lands, Gardens, Orchards, and Enclosures belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, as also an Account of such Persons Male Tythes, and Portions of Tythes, either yearly Payers (either within or without the Parish) as belong therunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? And by whom, as you know, or have heard?

XII. HAVE any of the ancient Glebe Lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and licensed from the Ordinary? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish, to the detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage, and converting Arable Land into Pasture? By whom hath the same been made? And how many years since? and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage diminished thereby in the yearly value thereof, as you know, believe or have heard?

XIII. HAVE any new Pews or Seats been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of the Church (or Chappel) without leave from the Ordinary?

T I T. II.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister, Curate, or Lecturer, Episcopally Ordained?

II. HATH he been Licensed to Preach by the Bishop or others of the Universities?

III. IS he desired or suspected to have obtained his Orders or Benefice by any Simonical Compact?

IV. DOETH your Minister diligently read Divine Service, and preach every Lord's-day in the Church, unless hindered by sickness, or reasonable absence? And in such cases doth he procure some lawful Minister to read Prayers, to Preach, and perform other Ministerial Duties?

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V. DOTH your Minister in the Morning and Evening Service, in the Administration of the Sacraments, and in performing other Religious Offices appointed by the Church of England, use the respective Forms in the Book of Common Prayer, together with all those Words and Ceremonies which are enjoined in this Church? And doth he make use of the Surplice when he reads Divine Service, or Administers the Sacraments?

VI. DOTH your Minister diligently Catechise the Youth of his Parish? Doth he exhort and exhort them (as occasion is offered) to come and be confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to restrain all Popish Ceremonies, and all Superstitions in your Parish, to the true Religion and Worship of God, as it is established by Law?

VII. IS your Minister a man of a sober, unblameable and exemplary life? Is he grave, modest, and regular in his outward demeanour and apparel, according to the Constitutions of the Church? Is his carriage, conversation, or company in any kind whatsoever disorderly, or scandalous, and unbecoming his Calling and Charge?

VIII. IS your Minister ready to visit the Sick, and to Baptize Infants in danger of death, being so desired? Is any Infant or more and person in the Parish yet unbaptized by his default? Doth he duly Administer the Blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper, Three times every year, at the least, whereof Easter to be one? Doth he baptize with Purities?

IX. DOTH your Minister spend any persons at Uncanonical Hours, not between eight and twelve, but in private, or such an assembly as is not having the Consent of their Parents and Guardians? Doth he marry any other without Licence first published Three Weekdays or Weekdays in the Church, or without Licence so to do, or with the Consent of any other than the Archbishop, Bishop of this Diocese, or his Chancellor?

X. DOTH your Minister duly bid and receive Morning and Evening prayer, as is appointed? And doth he read the Forms of Prayer prescribed by the Church? Doth he
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taken upon him to appoint any priests, Deacons, or Religious Exercises, without lawful Authority? With he or any other Minister or Lay-person in your Parish, deliver any unlicensed Conventicles, or Meetings, under pretence of any exercise of Religion?

XI. IS your Minister constantly Resident among you? With he a Curate conforming to assist him in his absence or absence? With he carry himself in all things, as an able and discreet Minister, and conformable to the Church of England? With he serve any more Cures besides that of your Parish, on the same day? What is the name of your Curate, and what yearly stipend both your Minister allow him?

XII. IS there in your Parish any Rector? What is his name? With he read Divine Services before his Lecture, as by Law is required, and is he Conformable to the Discipline of the Church of England?

TIT. III.

Concerning Parishioners.

I. ARE there any in your Parish who are excommunicated Persons of the Church of England? Any Impugners of the Religion established, or the Statutes Supremacy, or of any the Laws, Rites, and Ceremonies Ecclesiastical? With any spoken or written any thing in derogation, or to the derogation of the Word of God, or to the Church of England, or Administration of the Sacraments, Rites and Ceremonies prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, as it is now established by Law?

II. ARE there any in your Parish, who lie under a common fame, or bad name of Infamy, Popishness, or

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Incest? Are there any common Drunkards, Swearers or Blasphemers of Gods holy Name and Word?

III. ARE there any Excommunicate persons, or any who countenance, or keep company with them?

IV. DO any of your Parish prophane the Lords-day by neglecting of publick Holy Duties, or by doing the works of their ordinary Calling, or using unlawful Recreations, or permitting their Childzen or Serbants so to do? Do they duly obserbe other Holidays, Festivals and Fasts appointed by Authority?

V. DO all those who inhabite in your Parish duly resort to your Church (or Chappel) and continue there during Divine Service, Sermon, and other Holy Duties, with that Reuerence, Order, and Decency, as befits devout Christians? Or, have any occasioned Riot, Clamor or Fighting in the Church at any time? Are there any Recusant Papists, or Seditaries in your Parish? Do they, or any of them keep any Schoolmaster in their House which cometh not to Church to hear Divine Service, and receiue the Holy Communion?

VI. ARE there any in your Parish who refuse to haue their Infant-childzen Baptized by your Minister? Or do they keep them unbaptized longer than the Church allowes? And what Infants, or more aged persons, are there in your Parish unbaptized.

VII. DO all your Housholders duly send their childzen Apprentices and Serbants to be chatechized? And do they take care (when occasion is offered) they should be confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. IS there any person in your Parish being Sixteen years of age, who refuseth to receiue the Blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times ebery Year? Whereof Easter to be one? And do all receiue this Sacred Mysterie with that outward gesture of Humilitie and Reuerence as becomes them, merbly kneeling upon their knees?

IX. ARE there any in your Parish who are known or suspected to be unlawfully married, contrary to the Lawes of God and this Church? Are there any (who being lawfully married

Married and never divorced, be yet like aunder? Or any who being lawfully divorced, do live together again? Or being separated for adultery, take afterwards any marriage with any other, during the life of their first Consort? }

X. ARE there any married women in your Parish, who after their safe delivery from Child birth, neglect to make their humble and publick Thanksgivings to God, decently apparelled, according to the appointment of the Church? Or refuse to pay the offerings according to custom.

XI. ARE there any of your Parish who refuse to pay their Easter Offerings, and other dues to your Minister? Or to pay the Rates assessed on them, for the Repair and provisions of the Church?

XII. DO you know, or have you heard of any Patron, or other person in your Parish, who having the gift of an Ecclesiastical Benefice, hath made gain thereby upon any Bargain, either for Money, Pension, Lease, Renter of Tythes, or Glebe, or other Simoniackal Compact whatsoever?

XIII. DO any among you refuse to bury their Dead, according to the Rites of the Church of England? Are there any Burials or Decayed persons unprobed, or Goods not administered? Do you know of any Legacies given to your Church, not yet received by you, or detained from you, or not applied to the uses appointed?

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Officers belonging to the Church.

I. ARE the Church-Wardens of your Parish, yearly chosen according to Law? And are there wise-men appointed to assist them, for the due ordering of the Church?

II. HAVE the former and last Church-Wardens given up their

their Accounts to those that succeed them together with all
 tithes and other things belonging to said Church (as was said)
 And I. H. A. V. E. your parish Clerk, or some and twenty years
 at least, who is of sober life and good report? To be chosen by
 your Minister, and approved by the Parson, and to be able for
 Reading, Writing, and Singing on a Church. His the Sec-
 retary shall pay him 4. s. or as much more as shall be thought
 fit. **II. DO TH** you have any house or place of your Church,
 to keep it lockt, and clean, as you the Clerk, and ring the
 bells in such times as call the congregation to the service of
 God? Also to admonish them by calling of a Parson, when the
 congregation is absent, and to admonish the sick, and
 to command the others weak condition to the mercy of God.

And he that shall be found not doing so, shall pay
 10 s. for every offence.

**Concerning Alms-houses, Schools, and School-
 masters, Physicians, Curators, and Wives.**

I S there any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-school
 in your Parish not of the Kings Foundation? Are
 they so governed and ordered in the use and Revenue as the
 Founders appointed, according to the Ordinances and Statutes
 which have been made concerning the same?

II. DO TH any man keep a publick or private School in
 your Parish? Is he or they licensed and allowed thereunto by
 the Bishop? Is he of sober, religious and exemplary Conver-
 sation? Doth he instruct his scholars in the Catechism and Re-
 ligion of the Church of England? Is there any Woman that
 taketh upon her to instruct and educate any young Maidens?
 Doth she resort duly and bring with her to Divine Service upon
 the Lords-day, and Holidays, all such young Maidens as are
 committed to her care?

III. DO any in your Parish permit Drunken, Curst, or
 idle behaviour, without License from the Ordinarie?

THe Minister of every Parish may join in
Presentments with the Church-Wardens
and Side-men, and if they will not present,
then the Ministers themselves (being the Per-
sons that have the chief care of the suppressing
of Sin and Impiety in their Parishes) may
present the Crimes aforesaid, and such things
as shall want due Reformation. *Can. 113.*

JOH. CESTRIENS.

THe Ministers of every Parish are desired to give in
the Names of such of the younger sort, in their several
Parishes, as they judg fit to receive Confirmation from
the Bishop.

FINIS.